



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## *A View to the Future*

### Residents Act To Put Wires Underground

By Crystal Land

Wouldn't it be nice to look out the window and enjoy a view of the bay without a mass of drooping electrical wires? Don McGee, a Noe Valley resident, is working on clearing up the view of a six-square-block area stretching from 28th to 30th and Noe to Diamond streets.

McGee, with the help of the residents' group Upper Noe Neighbors, is petitioning the city to give priority to their neighborhood for installing underground utilities. "I'd like to see the wires on my street put underground in my lifetime," says McGee.

In a joint operation conducted by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and PG&E, about two miles of wires are moved underground each year through the city's Underground District Program. Currently, the city has a master plan to move all overhead utilities underground.

According to a DPW pamphlet dated April 1989, "Out of 850 miles of city



Don McGee is leading a petition drive to get these utility wires placed underground and out of sight. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

streets, about 350 miles have been officially undergrounded." In addition, about 10 miles of streets have already been earmarked for conversion, the pamphlet states.

After this work is completed, "Private requests from property owners [will be] given consideration in the order in which received."

Pat Barnes, a project representative at PG&E, says that for most property owners petitioning now, "It will take at least

eight to 10 years to get the wires put underground, but if they don't ever petition, they probably won't see underground utilities in their lifetime."

At the rate of two miles a year, and with 500 miles of city streets left to convert, he calculates that the city won't be entirely undergrounded for 250 years.

McGee had been thinking about getting his block put on the priority list for

*Continued on Page 4*

## *How Clean Is My Valley?*

### Anti-Litter Group Targets 24th Street

By Stephen Rosenthal

"Dirt is not dirt," said Lord Palmerston, former prime minister of England, "but only something in the wrong place." Well, there seem to be a lot of things in the wrong place on 24th Street these days.

The problem of litter is not new to Noe Valley; it's just getting worse. Despite the efforts of conscientious residents, business owners, and the Department of Public Works (DPW), 24th Street often looks as though it hasn't been cleaned for weeks.

"There are many factors contributing to our litter problem," says Maria Kleczewska, local resident and organizer of the Friends of Noe Valley's new anti-litter committee. "Some people, shoppers and store owners alike, apparently lack the awareness and sensitivity as to what a cleaner business district means to the neighborhood."

Kleczewska is irked by shopkeepers "who sweep garbage from the sidewalk

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Kevin Gogin says cleaning house, cooking meals, and taking care of 18-month-old Sarah are a full-time job. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

## Three Men and Their Babies: Adventures in Househusbandry

By Addie Lanier

On any given day in Noe Valley, it is impossible to ignore the childcare cliques that block the sidewalks with strollers or converge on the neighborhood parks. Generally these gatherings consist of mothers, nannies, and babies, but every now and then a rare bird—the "househusband"—can be spotted in the crowd.

The men may be acknowledged with smiles or nods of recognition, but seldom are they addressed by name. Although they too can sing the ever-popular "Five Little Monkeys"—and display firsthand knowledge of the day-to-day grind and rewards of parenting—the househusbands tend to be set apart.

When most onlookers learn that the daddies are not merely babysitting or giving their spouse a breather, but have actually taken on the "feminine" job of raising their own children, the reaction is often a surprised "Oh," followed by, "But why are you doing this?"

Kevin Gogin, 35, has a simple answer. "I've really wanted to parent a child for a long time, I think all my life. And I love it."

*'Sarah is only going to be 10 months once. I just couldn't miss it.'*

Gogin and his partner Dan McPherson, 35, who live together on 22nd Street, began the private adoption process in June of 1988. They were told they would have to wait a year, if not longer. At the time, Gogin was director of a residential

treatment program at Catholic Charities, and McPherson was beginning his last year of study for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. But five short weeks later, the two would-be parents found themselves attending their daughter's birth—without the benefit of prenatal or Lamaze classes. Sarah McPherson-Gogin was born on the auspicious date of August 8, 1988 (8/8/88).

In order to be with Sarah more, McPherson became a part-time student, and Gogin reduced his hours at work. That schedule lasted nine months. Then last May, Gogin quit his job in order to stay home with Sarah full-time.

"Career-wise, I was aware that it may not have been the best thing to do," explains Gogin. "But Sarah is only going to be 10 or 11 months once. I just couldn't miss it. We wanted to do the parenting ourselves, and we think it's important for her."

When people learn that Sarah is being raised by two men, they often ask, "But where's the mother?" According to Gogin, that question really means, "Who's nurturing your child?" On that point, both men would like to set the record straight: "Just because a man is home taking care of a child doesn't mean the child is not being nurtured."

When she was an infant, Sarah had less impact on the daily lives of her parents than now because both men were sharing childcare and because she could tag along with them wherever they went, nestled in a "snuggly" or backpack. But now that Sarah is 17 months old, Gogin spends his days participating in child observation classes, playing at Douglass

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## Buena Vista Mural Supporters Speak Out

Editor:

I normally have nothing but good feelings toward Noe Valley and its people. Reading the *Voice* hardly makes my blood boil. But the story in the December issue about the proposed murals at Buena Vista School left me with the proverbial "bad taste in my mouth."

I had no idea there were such mean-spirited, small-minded people in this lovely neighborhood, particularly the gentleman who stated that he doesn't like the work of the Precita Eyes muralists. I would like to point out that as a city guide, I have shown Precita Eyes' murals to visitors from various parts of San Francisco, the United States, and the world, and usually the reaction is one of delight.

Furthermore, if this gentleman has a problem with things that "remind him of the psychedelic art of the '60s," I can only feel sorry for him.

However, it's unfortunate that his negative attitude must be allowed to spoil things for the whole neighborhood. Too often it is the negative attitudes that get voiced most loudly, and thereby prevail, while the rest of us quietly shake our heads and go about our business.

Penny Guinn

**The Next  
AD  
DEADLINE  
is  
February 16<sup>th</sup>**

## LETTERS 25¢

Editor:

Thanks to you and to writer Mark Robinson for the clear and fair-minded article about the "mixed" mural project at Buena Vista School. However, I want to clear up one inaccuracy: I don't argue against residents having "a pleasant view outside their window." I am sure that the Buena Vista mural would have been very beautiful indeed. Nevertheless, residents have no *right* to any *particular* view. Property rights don't include dictating to your neighbors how they paint their own walls.

If the city officials who administer community development programs believe in the public benefits of their projects, then they shouldn't, as a matter of policy, "steer clear of murals with any controversy."

Given some opposition, the Mayor's Office of Community Development and the Board of Supervisors had an obligation to listen to the very large group of us who wanted this mural and to understand that the project would have been a wonderfully enriching experience for the entire Buena Vista School community. We had already met with the opposition. Working the problems through might have brought the entire community closer together, not left us divided.

In your story, the executive director of Support Services for the Arts is quoted as saying, "If there are aspects of the community that don't want it [an outdoor mural project, for example], then it won't get done." With support like that, the arts are in trouble.

When "aspects of the community," no matter how influential, are selfish and socially irresponsible, then they, as well as the bureaucrats who do their bidding, need an education in citizenship.

Don Anderson  
Buena Vista parent

Editor:

The work done by the Precita Eyes artists in San Francisco is in general much richer and more sophisticated than most of the "psychedelic art of the '60s."

Be that as it may, I think it's too bad that just because somebody has bad personal memories of that era or has a "thing" against "bongos and boom-boxes," they should deprive a whole community an uplifting, colorful gift of love.

Steven Judd

### Finger-Lickin' Good

Editor:

Students in my eighth grade honors class at James Lick Middle School are continuing with their ongoing project of "cooking along with United States history" [as described in the Rumors column, *Noe Valley Voice* December 1989 issue]. Our last two projects, "Boston Brown Bread" and "Philadelphia Scrapple," were successful, thanks to Stan Lau, manager of 24th Street's Bell Market, and Jim Jumper, manager of the meat department of the Diamond Heights Safeway.

We believe community involvement is the best kind. Come and visit us. We're really cooking.

Mike Beltran  
Teacher, James Lick School  
1220 Noe Street

### Errata

The *Voice* misidentified the dancer in a photo accompanying December's story on the "High School of the Arts Stepping Out" as Adrian Skaj. Our apologies to both Adrian and Artemis Anderson, who was actually the student in the picture. □



**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity. Mail subscriptions are available at a cost of \$12 per year (\$6 per year for seniors) by writing to the above address. The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name, address and phone number and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editorial: 821-3324

Subscriptions: 285-6347

Distribution: Misha Yagudin, 469-0419

Display Advertising: 469-0419

Call Steve at 239-1114

Classified Ads: See Page 31

Advertising Deadline for the  
March 1, 1990 Issue: February 16  
Editorial Deadline: February 15

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## Love on 24th Street

# Noe Valentines Katie and Rich Norvelle

By Grace D'Anca

Around eight o'clock each weekday morning, a quiet, unobtrusive couple strolls hand-in-hand down 24th Street. Oblivious to the hustle and bustle around them, they seem to be relishing their last few moments together before the work-day starts.

She is elegantly dressed and bejeweled, in striking contrast to his clean-cut, casual look. Upon arriving at the Noe Valley post office, they exchange a kiss before he slips through the employees' door. She pauses for a cigarette on Panos' bench, then walks across the street to her job at Coast Savings.

That's the routine for Katie and Rich Norvelle. Married two years, and happily settled in their 26th and Douglass Street home, they met in 1982 at Coast Savings, where Katie works as a financial savings officer. Although they didn't actually start dating until 1987 (after Katie dropped a hint to a friend of Rich's—her boss, Brent Tauber), Cupid's arrow was swift.

"We went to a Thai restaurant on our first date," relates Rich, 46, "and I still remember how nicely she was dressed—the Spanish term for it, I believe, is 'guapa' (good-looking)."

Says Katie, 42, "I remember the way he looked at me, with those honest eyes, so anxious to get to know me better."

Katie and Rich got married three months later, the day before Valentine's Day.

"It was a long holiday weekend and we didn't want to wait," Katie recalls, beaming. "So we went to Reno," Rich chimes in.



A true 24th Street romance, Katie and Rich Norvelle work within a block of one another—she at Coast Savings and he at the Post Office. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

Aside from a stint in the Navy, when he served on a destroyer in Vietnam, Rich has always lived in Noe Valley. He went to school at Alvarado, James Lick and Mission High. Between growing up here, and working as a window clerk at the Noe Valley post office since 1975, he figures he's met just about everyone in the neighborhood.

Katie is originally from Lima, Peru. But she's been in San Francisco since 1962 (except for a four-year stay in Southern California). She got her education at Presidio Elementary School, Horace Mann Middle School, and Mission High.

The Norvelles tell their story together, while exchanging frequent looks and teasing each other. He has a wry sense of humor and she loves to laugh.

"You have to have fun and enjoy life," notes Rich. "And just remember that all criticism is meant to be constructive." For example, adds Katie, sometimes she "criticizes" Rich "if he talks too strong to me." But she does it in a spunky,

humorous way: "Don't forget you're not in the Navy anymore!" she chides. And Rich usually tones it down.

Of course, sometimes a spouse's criticism has to be taken with a grain of salt, like when Katie thought it was weird that Rich put his dirty dishes in a bucket to soak. Rich didn't get bent out of shape when Katie expressed her dismay, nor did he change his dishwashing style. "I just had to accept," says Katie, "that he has his own way of doing the dishes!"

But conflicts for the Norvelles seem to be few and far between. On their first night out together, says Katie with an emphatic, red-nailed gesture, "I realized that we were very compatible. We have similar personalities, and we're both easygoing people. We fell in love because the mutual respect and bond that existed between us just became stronger and stronger the more we saw each other."

One area of mutual respect is work. "I respected Katie from the start," says Rich, "because of her overall professionalism, the way she went about doing

her job. We both try to keep up with the changes in our professions, and I could see that Katie knew what she was doing."

As they look back over the past two years, Katie and Rich say it's the simple pleasures that count. Sharing daily coffee breaks and lunch on Fridays helps them maintain their closeness all through the busy downtown Noe Valley work week. And on weekends, they both love to relax by working in their flower and vegetable gardens, or by sharing their love of good wines during frequent visits to the wine country.

And the list goes on. They enjoy salsa dancing now and then, they both love to cook (and have a candlelight dinner almost every night), and both are morning people. They also like to plan ahead, whether for a weekend trip or the next big vacation, which, by the way, is likely to be to Jamaica in the spring.

When he's on his own, Rich manages to squeeze in a golf game occasionally (he used to coach neighborhood kids). Katie boasts that she's "pretty good" at miniature golf, herself (although Rich has to remind her that that's a bit different than the 18-hole variety).

Mostly, however, the Norvelles just like being together and communicating with each other. "We enjoy getting home and talking about the unusual happenings of the day," Katie says.

Let's hope that Rich and Katie's downtown romance will be a prototype for the '90s. They make the little things in life look very appealing. □



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## Dr. Andrew Wong 1926-1990

By Steve Steinberg

Noe Valley was saddened last month to learn of the death of long-time neighborhood acupuncturist Dr. Andrew Wong. Dr. Wong died unexpectedly on January 6, after having suffered a heart attack the previous day. He was 63. A memorial service was held for him on January 11.

Wong was one of the first practitioners of acupuncture in San Francisco after it became legal in California in the early 1970s. He had been at his Noe Valley office at 1071 Church Street since 1977.

According to his wife Priscilla, Wong was in apparent good health, with no history of illness, prior to his death. His wife characterized him as a man who "had so much to give." She said everyone benefited from his medical skills. She also said he was a man who "loved to laugh and lived life to the fullest. Even though it was a short life, he did everything to the fullest."

The Wongs had been married for 41 years and had two sons, Michael, 40, a BART personnel manager, and Gary, 35, a dentist.

Born in Canton, China, in 1926, Wong came to the United States in 1940 at the age of 14. He attended local schools and graduated from the old Commerce High School. He later studied at City College



Dr. Andrew Wong, who practiced Chinese medicine on Church Street for over 12 years, died January 6.

of San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley.

Wong worked in several careers before becoming an acupuncturist. He was a jeweler, a surveying assistant for the City of San Francisco, and a transportation engineer for Caltrans.

After retiring from Caltrans, Wong began formal studies in acupuncture, obtaining a doctorate in Chinese medicine from the San Francisco College of Acu-

## Notes from the Underground

Continued from Page 1

a while. "It's something that I've wanted to do for years," he said. "Not only does it get rid of the ugly wires, but afterwards the utilities are cheaper to maintain."

He started out with just his block on Valley Street. "It was so easy, almost ridiculously easy to do, so I decided to get a few friends to help me do a few more blocks."

With the aid of Sue Bowie, co-chair of the Upper Noe Neighbors, McGee found eight people to canvass each block. The extra help enabled McGee to petition a much larger area, and Bowie notes that "without our organization as an underlying support structure, it wouldn't have been as easy."

Bowie points out that "in order to qualify for underground utilities, 50 percent of the homeowners on the block must sign a petition." And McGee adds, "There is a cost. The city and PG&E pay to put the utilities underground, but each homeowner will have to pay to hook up the utilities and the meters, which will run about \$1,000 to \$1,500. It's not much for the benefit."

McGee and his crew started getting

signatures the first week in December and finished up in mid-January. "Each block takes about 10 hours total, and it gets a little complicated because every person on the house's deed has to sign the petition, so I had to return to some places several times," he said.

McGee encountered very little opposition to the plan, but what he did encounter was related to the project's cost. "Some people don't see the benefits; it's still years down the road, but they are just looking at the dollar amount."

With the petitions completed, McGee plans to approach the Department of Public Works in February to put his six square blocks on the list for underground utilities. McGee believes that it will be "at least 10 or 11 years before they show up to do any work, but at least I will see it this way. If I'd started the petitioning when I moved into Noe Valley, my street would have been done by now."

McGee's group is the first in Noe Valley to petition for an end to the overhead wires, but part of Glen Park and an area around Liberty Street and 20th will put their blocks on DPW's priority list. For more information and a petition, contact the Department of Public Works at 695-2020. □

puncture and Oriental Medicine. Acupuncture had actually been an area of interest for him since he was a boy, when

he studied the science with his grandfather back in China.

Wong was a man of many talents and interests, his wife said. He was a Shriner, a master of his Masonic lodge, a member of the San Francisco and Presidio golf clubs. He was also an officer of several professional acupuncture associations and had helped sponsor the legislation legalizing the practice of acupuncture in California. Proficient in the reading and writing of both Cantonese and Mandarin, he was learning Spanish when he died.

In 1987 the California State Senate honored his professional and civic accomplishments with a resolution of commendation.

Dr. Wong's son Gary opened a dental practice in his father's office in 1981. The younger Wong, who is also trained as an acupuncturist, says he plans to continue his father's practice as well as his own.

Calling his father a "great man," Wong said, "Everyone who came in contact with him came away with positive memories. His essence will carry on in the practice. It's a legacy." □

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## Anti-Litter

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into the gutter instead of taking a few minutes more to use a dustpan and deposit the dirt into a garbage can. The debris sits in the gutter for two or three days and gets blown around the neighborhood before the street cleaners have a chance to remove it," she says.

What's more, she adds, "The building owners whose storefronts are vacated and left unoccupied don't seem to realize their responsibility to clean the sidewalks."

Kleczevska points out, however, that the real culprits are those who litter in the first place. "Customers of Spinelli's and the San Francisco Coffee Company often throw their empty coffee cups and pastry wrappers in the gutter instead of a nearby garbage receptacle, and those who use ATMs along 24th Street should think about where all those unkept transaction receipts end up."

Harry Aleo, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, doesn't feel that the litter problem is as bad as some people suggest, but he admits, "It could be better."

Aleo concurs that "a few businesses don't seem to care and have never cooperated with our requests for a cleaner neighborhood," but he rejects the idea that excessive litter is driving customers away from the area.

Perhaps he should talk to Tina Savage, a Bernal Heights resident. Savage shops regularly on 24th Street because "it's nearby and has a wide variety of nice shops." She has, however, noticed an increase in the amount of litter lately and finds it disturbing. "I've begun driving the extra minutes it takes to get to Fillmore or Union Street. The stores are similar, but the shopping areas present a more attractive appearance."

John Roumbanis, an official at DPW, agrees with Kleczevska that businesses need to become more involved. "The city can't be expected to sweep the sidewalks," he says. "A high-traffic area which remains clean promotes the image of the businesses within the neighborhood and



Friends of Noe Valley member Maria Kleczevska thinks the neighborhood is long overdue for a good housecleaning. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

even encourages people from outside the area to shop there."

Roumbanis encourages merchants and residents to form DPW-sponsored "broom brigades" on 24th Street. These are informal committees which see to it that certain blocks are swept and cleaned on a regular basis. At the moment, the 3000 and 3100 blocks (down the hill in the Mission) are the only ones on 24th

Street participating in the program, he said.

Kleczevska notes that she has repeatedly petitioned the DPW for more garbage receptacles and additional street-cleaning days in Noe Valley. Roumbanis is sympathetic, but says his office has been overwhelmed with similar requests from neighborhoods throughout the city. He added that he has asked for

a substantial increase in next year's budget to cover the cost of heavy-duty garbage cans.

As for stepping up the number of street-sweeping days, "That's difficult," he said. "As a commercial street 24th Street might qualify, but residents must first direct a letter to the director of the DPW requesting a change in the mechanized parking regulations, and then attend subsequent public hearings regarding the subject."

Another major source of litter is the city parking lot on 24th Street between Castro and Noe. The city contracts with a private company, Custodian Janitorial Service, to clean public parking lots.

According to Kevin Haggarty, assistant director of the Parking Authority, Custodian has done "a good job under difficult circumstances." The lots are cleaned and ready by 9 a.m. four times a week, but because they are used 24 hours a day, it is impossible to get to every nook and cranny.

Haggarty said his department once provided garbage receptacles in every lot, but found them ineffective. "The garbage cans actually increased the amount of litter in the lots because they quickly overflowed as people used them to empty their cars of trash."

What can you do to help rectify our litter plight? First, stop dumping your garbage, no matter how small, and remember that just about everything these days is recyclable. Second, complain to store managers when you notice litter in front of their store.

"Be nice," says Kleczevska, "but make the storekeepers aware that filth drives away business."

You can also join the Friends of Noe Valley anti-litter committee, which plans to initiate a number of actions in order to achieve more community awareness of the problem. (Call Kleczevska at 647-8631 for details.)

Kleczevska asks us to imagine what 24th Street would look like if there were no debris on the sidewalks or clogging the gutters, if all the old, rusted and unused newspaper boxes were removed, and if the street were free of all cars on streetcleaning days, so the cleaners could do their job properly.

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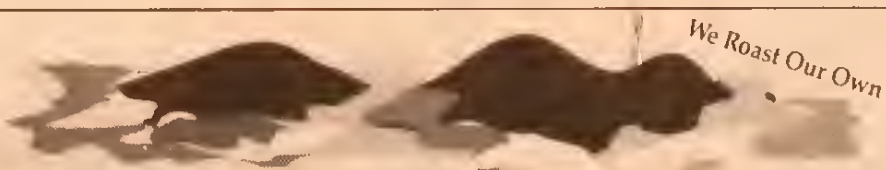
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## Three Men and Their Babies

*Continued from Page 1*

Park, changing diapers, changing more diapers, cooking, and, of course, constantly cleaning.

"It's the most difficult job I've ever had," he says. "It's just all-consuming. When I hear moms say, 'Well, my husband says this is my job, so he won't do this and that because he *works* all day,' I think how those husbands have no idea. It may not take a lot of brain power, but it takes a lot of attention power, and that's brain power. It also takes all your energy. You have to be a psychologist, a playmate, a nurturer, a teacher, a nurse, a nanny, a cook, a housecleaner, and a chauffeur. Taking care of a kid, you learn to do two or three things at once."

The immersion in his daughter's world had an unexpected effect on Gogin when he recently attended a two-day psychology conference.

"Here I was with all these other adults who were professionals in the field, and I'd forgotten how to talk in full sentences. Vocabulary. I'm not used to finishing sentences with Sarah around. I'm not used to having a real conversation. I was afraid I couldn't do it because I only know how to sing about a few little monkeys jumping on the bed. It took me a good three or four hours to switch gears, because I'd forgotten how to think!"

**'You have to fit in every personal thing you want to do while he's sleeping—like eating something or showering.'**

Many of the sentiments expressed by Gogin are shared by John Anastos, a self-employed carpenter and, these days, another Noe Valley househusband.

Anastos, 42, took over the job of raising his son Ross when Ross was 9 months old. Ross' mom, Chris Montgomery, 37, is a full-time gardener for the city. Anastos still manages to work part-time, but because he's self-employed, he can work



John Anastos and son Ross, 3, check out the train in Tuggey's window on a 24th Street excursion last month PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

around Chris and Ross' schedules.

"Before you have children, you don't know what it's going to be like, really—you just have an idea," he observes. "We thought, Chris can take nine months off to be with the baby. We figured that was a lot of time. And while she was home taking care of Ross, I planned to remodel the house. Well, the remodeling's still in the process, and Ross is 3 years old."

Once a child's in the picture, "free time" is pretty much just a figment of your imagination, notes Anastos. During the day, about the only free time he gets is when Ross is taking a nap.

"You have to fit in every personal thing you want to do while he's sleeping," Anastos says. "like eating something or showering. But while you're in the middle of your shower, he comes into the bathroom crying with his 'yabi-yabi' (that's his blanket), so you turn on. Phys-

ically and emotionally, it's the most draining job you could ever have because you're constantly on 'on.'"

Anastos and Montgomery looked into a variety of childcare options when Dad needed to work more, or wanted a break from *Sesame Street*. But so far, nothing has panned out except for some swaps with other parents. They did hire a sitter for a couple of hours a day when Anastos was trying to finish the work on the house, but even that became "ridiculous."

"Lots of times I would give Ross his lunch because I couldn't handle the thought of another person doing it," Anastos admits. "When I look back on it, I realize how much I was helping the childcare person, who I was paying, to do stuff. I'd have my tool apron on, and I'd ask myself, 'What am I doing?'"

When Ross was learning to walk, he and his dad took long strolls on 24th

Street, virtually every day. And they inevitably passed groups of mothers with kids, having sidewalk conversations.

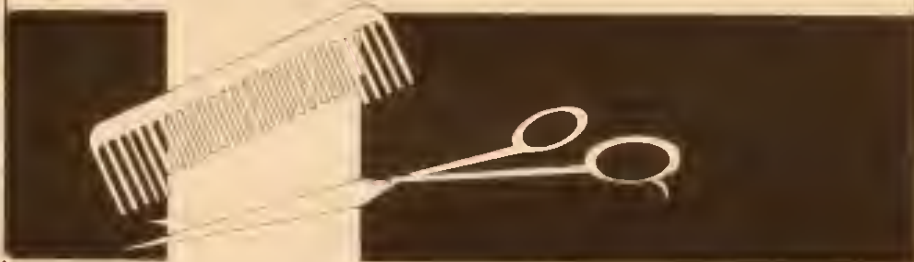
"I thought, well, I'm a person with a child," recalls Anastos, "but I often had the feeling that the mothers thought, oh, he's just giving Mom a break. We would stop, and I'd ask a question or make a comment, but it would kind of hang in the air. I really wasn't accepted as a primary caregiver."

It wasn't until Anastos began meeting children and parents at the park that he was accepted. He has since become a contributing member of a mother/child group where he is the only male.

"There's a group of mothers in the neighborhood who really warmed to Ross," says Anastos. "My relationship with them has been an integral part of

*Continued on Page 7*

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## Househusbands

*Continued from Page 6*

our life. You never know what effect an experience will have on you, but I will never forget this last couple of years."

'At the ball park I developed coping strategies for like where to change her, because in the men's room there was never anything to use.'

Castro Street resident Murray Cahen claims he's not "totally into the business of nurturing and all that." He just "likes to do fun things" with his daughter Molly, whom he describes as "average in every way." Part of the fun is teaching her things, he says, like, "If you take a Cheerio and plant it in the garden, in the spring it comes up as a glazed donut."

When Molly was born in February of 1988, Cahen, 29, was finishing his bachelor's degree at San Francisco State University. Because his wife Jane Lapides, 33, had an established career as a computer programmer, they decided that Cahen would stay home with Molly. Lapides went back to work part-time when Molly was 3½ months old. And because of her flexible schedule, she manages to give Cahen breaks from childrearing—so he can clean the house, shop, run errands, and cook.

"Murray definitely has the harder job during the day than I do," comments Lapides. "I just can't imagine what it's like for women who stay home full-time. When their husbands get home, they have not only the kids, but the husband to take care of as well."

Cahen offers a slightly different assessment. "I think it's fantastic to be home with her. Like I say, it's good work if you can get it. It's good to be able to



see her go through all the different stages, whether it's steps or talking."

Cahen says that Molly is usually willing to do the things he's interested in, as long as he can "figure her out." It's the figuring out that proves troublesome. "Sometimes I find myself talking to her like a dog," he jokes. "Molly, sit! Sit!"

But Cahen gives an upbeat account of how he spends most days. "My whole idea of being with her is just to find things to do—anything to do during the day to get out of the house," he says. "After packing a major diaper bag, [we'll try] going to a different neighborhood every day, or going to a shopping mall, or just pounding the pavement, or becoming a kids' gym junkie."

"Househusband" Murray Cahen shows daughter Molly, who turns 2 this month, the finer points of bubble-blowing in their back yard on Castro Street. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Cahen's jaunts with Molly have included trips to Bay Meadows (where Molly can see the horses up close and bet on the computer betting screen), and visits to neighborhood bars and record stores. The pair have also attended numerous A's and Giants' games. (Cahen estimates they made it to 10 or 15 games last season.)

"I get nostalgic just thinking about all the games she saw," he says. "You know, she saw the Giants win the pennant in only her second year as a Giants fan. Some people had to wait 27 years for that."

"At the ball park I developed coping

strategies, so to speak—like where to change her—because in the men's room there was never anything to use. Once I was changing her on the floor in the bathroom when I realized that that was kind of stupid. So I took her to the first-aid room."

Murray reports that as of last year, however, both the A's and the Giants installed changing tables in the men's rooms, and the A's also now provide free disposable diapers.

Now who would have thought that changing tables in the men's room would be a sign of the changing times? □

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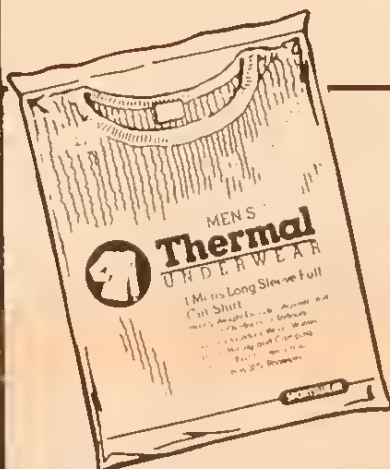
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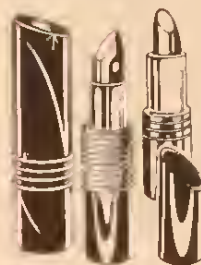
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Just As We Suspected...

## There's a Mystery Bookstore In Our Midst

By Jeanne Alexander

It was a dark and stormy night at 24th and Diamond when Bruce Taylor opened his San Francisco Mystery Bookstore 14 years ago.

Well, no. Actually it was an ordinary sunny Friday in September 1975, when Taylor's then-wife Carol unlocked the doors to the corner storefront. Taylor took over the next day, and has been sharing his treasure trove of whodunits at 746 Diamond Street ever since.

One of only three mystery bookstores in the country at the time (the others were in New York and Los Angeles), Taylor's shop was the new kid on what was a very different block in Noe Valley.

At the corner where Andiamo Deli is now located stood an organ repair shop. "The guys who worked there used to buy books here," Taylor recalls. And on the northeast corner of 24th and Diamond, where Taste of Honey was until recently, there was a men's boutique. ("It didn't last long.") A gas station occupied the southwest corner, which is now filled by an apartment complex.

Business was slow in the beginning. "It took three years for the shop to kick in," Taylor says. But after a newspaper story, a television feature, and a mention in Herb Caen's column shed some light on its whereabouts, the Mystery Bookstore became a magnet for literary thrill-seekers.

Today Taylor gets calls from all over the country—from Alaska, Hawaii, and Florida, not to mention Council Bluffs, Iowa. ("It's a good town for mysteries," he observes. Why? That's a mystery.)

Several hundred titles a month disappear (paid for) from Taylor's stock of some 10,000 books—new and used, hardcover and paperback, in and out of print. There's also a healthy traffic in trades. He sells used paperbacks for half their cover price and gives the customer who brings them in half of the sale as a credit. Hardcover for trade are priced "by whim and caprice," he says wickedly.

Since the little duplex is open only on weekends (Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5:30 p.m.), how does Taylor sell so many books?

"I'm really very good at what I do," he says without arrogance. "I know what people want to read and I work at having it available."

He is also his readers' own private book investigator. When presented with a list of books a customer wants, Taylor



It's no mystery why weekends are busy at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore at Diamond and 24th. Owner Bruce Taylor has one of the best detective-story minds in the country.  
PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

will track them down and notify the customer as soon as the titles are in the store.

When he's toting up a patron's purchases, Taylor's robust 6-foot, 5-inch frame almost fills one corner of his tiny shop. The wall phone behind him rings continuously, and the calculator at the end of the huge oak desk is in imminent danger of being crowded off the edge. The desk also serves as a display table for a large family of new hardcover titles, and as a base for a tall revolving bookcase filled with more titles. (The case was custom-made by Noe Valley cabinetmaker Larry Borsian, who also converted the supply room door into a bookcase.)

Books coat the walls both upstairs and downstairs, and those for trade ride the banisters of the staircase. A Maltese falcon guards a stack of volumes in one corner, and from the front window, a stained glass Sherlock Holmes surveys Diamond Street.

"If there's an engineering award for fitting books into micro-spaces, I expect to get it," Taylor smiles. He should. Labels on his shelves ("New Releases,"

"Bay Area Writers/Bay Area Settings," "Recent Stock/Secondhand," "Signed Books/Collectible Items," "Great Book," and "Recommended") help customers make their way through the mystery maze.

The second floor, added only three years ago, holds mostly paperbacks, plus a neat little bathroom equipped with a ceiling-high bookshelf of reading material.

Both browsers and regulars constantly talk (mystery book) shop, exchanging criticisms and asking the owner's opinion of titles and authors.

"Don't read him before you go to church," he advises someone about Jim Thompson's *Killer Inside Me*. "She's got a new one due any time, but it's not here yet," he reports to a fancier of local author Marcia Muller's books.

Brooklyn-born Taylor started reading mysteries when he was 10 years old. His favorites were Ellery Queen ("he still has a great reputation, but his books no longer sell") and Charlie Chan ("his movies were always better than his books").



Why did he decide to open a bookstore? "It beats digging ditches in the rain in Minnesota—and it seemed like fun," Taylor says.

He specialized in mysteries because he knew the field so well. In a general-interest bookstore, he notes, "You'd have to know a little something about almost everything."

From the outset he has maintained a full-time job in the business world, working as a manufacturer's representative for Revlon's Roux line of hair products. And even though his sales rep schedule offers a bit of flexibility, the book business generally has to wait for weekends.

Taylor, 45, lives in Miraloma Park with his 16-year-old son Christopher, a junior at McAteer High School. Daughter Jennifer is a sophomore at the University of California in Santa Cruz.

Although he has no interest in putting out newsletters or flyers about his store, Taylor has produced two handouts for his customers. One, consisting of two sides of a sheet of 8½-by-11 paper, is the brainchild of Tom Henriksen, a former customer who now works in the shop on Sundays.

Readers can find books by scanning a list titled, "I know the detective but I can't remember the author." If the detective is Lord Peter Wimsey, for instance, Dorothy Sayers appears in the opposite column.

And for those clients in the even woolier dilemma of "I don't know the author or the title, but it's about..." there's a list of a couple of dozen provocative "abouts" and the corresponding authors. For books about "a dwarf detective," readers should look up works by Chesbro, for example. Or to investigate "a guy who talks to his wife's grave," try Jeremiah Healy. Books featuring the "senior citizen hit-lady" are the creation of Evelyn Smith.

Handout number two—for the insatiable enthusiast—is titled, "Who do I read when I've read all the books by my favorite author?" It lists authors under various "If you like" categories. If you like "a dash of humor with your crime," there are 32 writers to choose from. Those preferring "the genteel British mystery (with violence offstage)" should pick up books by any one of 42 authors, from Catherine Aird to Patricia Wentworth.

Currently the most popular category on the list, says Taylor, is "women writers with a strong female lead." And he names authors Sara Paretsky, Sue Grafton, and Marcia Muller as the leading ladies of bestsellerdom.

For the novice mystery reader, Taylor adds a footnote at the bottom of this handout: "Not to belabor the obvious, but if you haven't read Chandler and Hammett, ignore the above lists and start with them."

Would he like to have a larger store to display additional titles? Of course, but not if he had to pay the going rate of rent on 24th Street.

With a "livable lease and a good landlord," Bruce Taylor is happy to stay where he is. □

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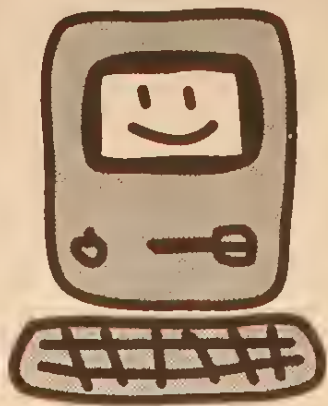
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# J-Line Construction No Fun for Church Street Merchants

By Jeff Kaliss

Until last fall, the intersection off Church and 30th streets, at the terminus of the J-Church streetcar line, had become something of a pleasant agora for the several Greek entrepreneurs who set up shop there. But Muni's construction of an extension to the J-line has turned the area into a labyrinth, with blocked streets and loud mechanical minotaurs destroying pavement and eating up parking places.

"It has been difficult... but what else can we do?" laments Christina Roukes, co-owner (with her brother Andreas Kapiniaris) of the Verona Restaurant at 291 30th Street.

When the 18-month construction project began last spring, she said, some customers assumed that the restaurant, which has served Greek and Italian lunches and dinners for five years, had



Standing in front of her Verona Restaurant, Christina Roukes gestures down 30th Street in the direction of the J-Line extension, which temporarily dampened business at the eatery she co-owns with her brother, Andreas Kapiniaris. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

disappeared. Others abandoned Verona's take-out pizza because they couldn't park.

George Kintis, 10-year co-owner of Church Street Produce, on the corner across the street from Verona, also reports that his income has suffered as a result of the construction. "We're down around 20 percent," he said.

Sonia Spachis, who has specialized in booking trips to her native Greece for 14

years, says that the heavy machinery involved in digging up the street and laying track has disturbed business at Akropolis Travel, 1799 Church Street, as well. "We cannot sometimes hear what we say," she complained.

Elfi Manteuffel of Elfi's Boutique is of German origin, but she is as upset as the Greeks. "We are not big merchants that can afford to lose this kind of money," she protests.

"They tore the whole street apart, the whole month of December. And at Christmastime, a lot of people didn't even know we were open. They just picked out a bad time to do it," Manteuffel said.

She added that customers who were unable to park near her store at 1781 Church Street had to stray as far as Safeway, five blocks away, to find spaces.

Peter Straus, Muni's director of service planning, told the Voice last month that "where the track is in and the street has been closed up, the worst is definitely behind you. You shouldn't see any other traffic disruption" in the 30th and Church area for the rest of the project.

Straus notes that some work remains on 30th between Dolores and San Jose and that poles must be "planted" for electrification, but he doesn't feel these things will cause much disturbance. He expects the entire J-line extension project to be completed by the end of 1990.

Once the J cars travel all the way to Balboa Park Station, the Church Street merchants hope that they'll do even better business than before the upheaval.

"It's going to be wonderful, because more people will use the streetcar," says Verona's Roukes. "But for now, we just have to be patient." □



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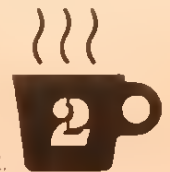
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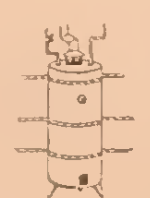
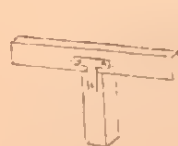
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## Crime Roundup . . . . .

Voice reporter Warren Karlenzig did a spot check of crimes logged at Mission Police Station during the last week of 1989 and the first two weeks of 1990, and came up with the following brief reports on three of the more disturbing incidents.

Let them be a reminder to Noe Valley residents that no city neighborhood is immune from danger, and that being on the lookout for your own and your neighbors' safety is always a good idea. To organize a SAFE block on your street, call 673-7233.

### 24th Street Shop Burglarized

During the early morning hours of December 24, Orpheus Leather, 3845 24th Street, was broken into and "several thousand dollars" of merchandise was stolen, according to the store's owner, Melody Wendt.

Wendt said the shop's front door frame and window were smashed, possibly with a sledgehammer. Police responding to the store's alarm found a glove at the scene with glass embedded in it, but had no suspects in the case as of mid-January.

Wendt also said the store had been broken into on several other occasions and was now in the process of installing additional security devices.

### Teen Fends off Attempted Rape

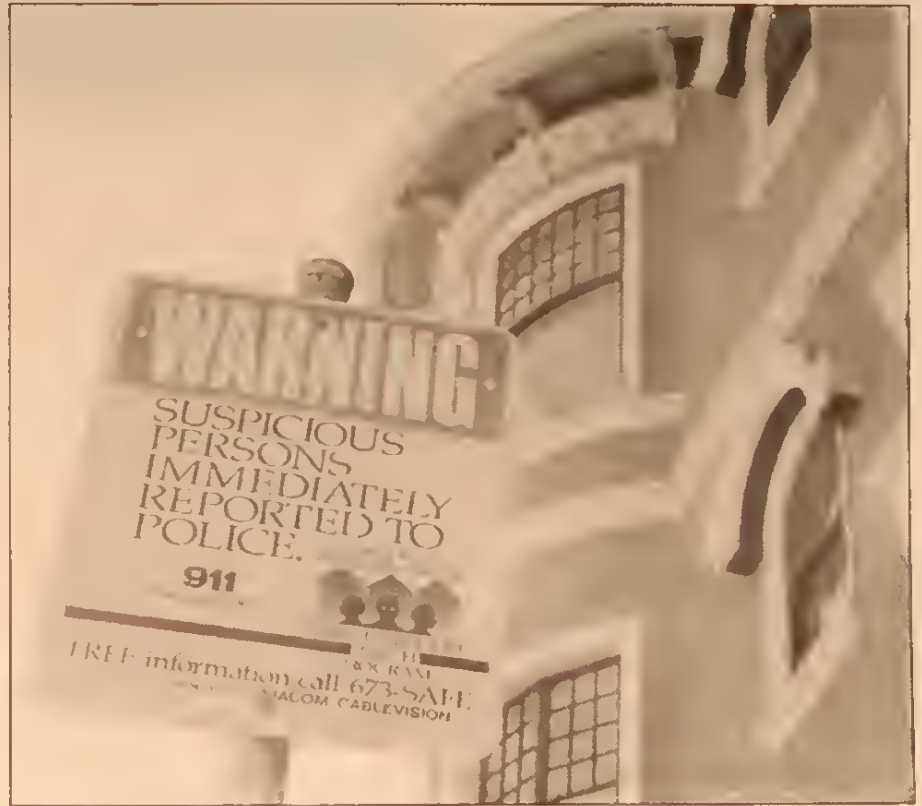
On the evening of January 3, a man attempted to rape a 15-year-old girl in her apartment building, located in the 800 block of Dolores Street between 21st and 22nd.

According to police records, the girl was in the laundry room in the basement of her building when the man, described as black, 5'8" and 150 pounds, grabbed her by the wrist and forced her to the floor. She screamed and kicked her attacker, causing him to release her. She then escaped up the stairs to her apartment and called police.

According to neighbors, the man probably gained entry into the building through an alley door that was often left propped open. The suspect was last seen wearing a long-sleeved green shirt. Police are still investigating.

### Gang-related Stabbing

A 15-year-old boy was stabbed in the leg in what police have labeled a gang-related incident.



The youth was walking with a friend on Dolores Street during the afternoon of January 5. At the corner of Liberty Street, a light blue Ford drove up and two youths got out and announced they were in the Trece gang. They accused the two youths on foot of being in the rival Norte gang.

One of the youths from the car then

pulled out a folding knife and stabbed the boy in the leg. The attacker was described as white with black hair, 5'7" and 120 pounds. He was wearing a yellow baseball cap.

The injured youth was treated for the wound at a local hospital. Police said he and his friend denied they were members of any gang. □

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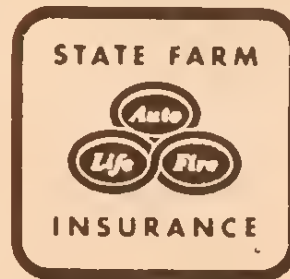
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## • MORE GROUPS to Join •

### THE WHO, WHAT & WHERE OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

**Friends of Noe Valley**

Contact: Bill Kuhns  
 Answering machine number: 285-3532.  
 Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St.,  
 San Francisco, CA 94110.  
 Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe  
 Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**East & West of Castro Street  
 Improvement Club**

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753.  
 Mailing Address: Secretary Fred Methner,  
 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114.  
 Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room  
 108, James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., 8 p.m.

**The Noe Valley Merchants and  
 Professionals Association**

Contact: Harry Aleo, 824-0872.  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 146003,  
 San Francisco, CA 94114.  
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank  
 of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
 Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,  
 San Francisco, CA 94131.  
 Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe  
 Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets,  
 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

**Duncan-Newburg Association**

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, or  
 Janet Kennedy, 647-1844.  
 Mailing Address: 41 Newburg St.,  
 San Francisco, CA 94131.  
 Meetings: Irregular.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938  
 Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,  
 San Francisco, CA 94110.  
 Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,  
 24th and Guerrero streets.

**Fairmount Neighborhood  
 Association**

Contact: Al Ujcic, 648-3545, or  
 Susan Nutter, 285-8484.  
 Mailing Address: 235 Randall St.,  
 San Francisco, CA 94131.  
 Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
 Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Glen Park Association**

Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,  
 P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131.  
 Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen  
 Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery,  
 7:30 p.m.

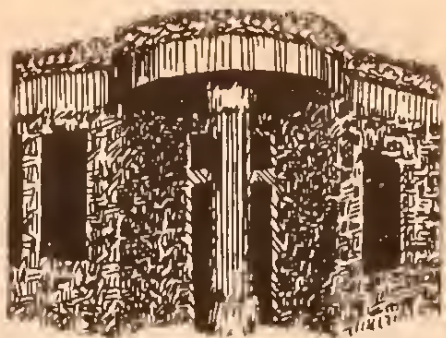
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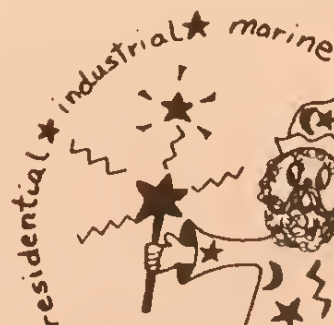
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## Quake Relief Continues

In Watsonville, the devastation caused by the October 17 earthquake was, and still is, profound. But the Noe Valley community has not forgotten the residents who were affected.

Before the Christmas holidays, the Friends of Noe Valley helped coordinate a collection effort that involved several neighborhood groups. Kids at Buena Vista Elementary School contributed clothing and canned goods (which they decorated), and wrote letters in Spanish to children in Watsonville.

The students at James Lick Middle School also gathered canned foods, and the faculty there collected close to \$300 for the Migrant Workers' Relief Fund.

Over at the 30th Street Senior Center, seniors put together 300 bags of candy, cookies, peanuts, and oranges (donated by Church Street Produce at 30th and Church streets), and tied each one up with bright ribbons and candy canes.

Food and other needed goods were amassed by the Noe Valley Ministry congregation, and families from the Noe Valley Nursery School donated \$100 toward the purchase of household goods.

Finally, on December 16, the Singing Rainbows Youth Ensemble gave a benefit concert at the Ministry. The concert highlighted the heroic efforts of Gerry Shannon, a Marina District firefighter whose life-saving deeds inspired singer/songwriter Nancy Schimmel to compose a song in his honor. Ticket sales totaling \$150 were matched by local merchants and professionals, and food was collected at the door.

Proceeds from the Singing Rainbows concert were donated both to the refugee relief effort in Watsonville and to Wind in the Willows Nursery School on Church Street, which sustained significant damage in the quake.

Relief work for Watsonville will be ongoing. If you would like to get in on the next collection campaign, give Miriam Blaustein a call at 648-0992.

## Continue Your Education

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# SHORT TAKES

adult education classes at the Mission Community College Center, 106 Bartlett Street (at 22nd).

Business courses cover accounting, bookkeeping, and secretarial skills, as well as the latest in computer studies (including word-processing and desktop publishing). Other offerings include classes in graphic arts, offset printing, GED test preparation, English as a Second Language, and learning programs for older adults.

Enrollment is open and continuous through April, and women and minorities are especially encouraged to attend. For a full schedule of classes, call 648-5866.

## A Safe Haven for Battered Women

La Casa de las Madres, San Francisco's first shelter for battered women, will begin training new volunteers on February 19. The shelter offers women and their children a safe haven from domestic violence, a 24-hour crisis hotline, childcare services, individual counseling, and support groups.

For more information on how you can help battered women help themselves, contact Bernita Burge at 777-1808.

## Innovative AIDS Treatment

The San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project, a 12-week comprehensive treatment program for HIV-infected individuals, begins February 26 at the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 1748 Market Street.

Treatments will include acupuncture, herbs, massage, chiropractic, psychotherapy, rebirthing, hypnotherapy, and nutritional counseling, along with support groups.

For information on introductory meetings, call 861-4964. Insurance is accepted.

## Eye Test for Preschoolers

One preschool child in 20 has a vision problem, according to the Northern California Society to Prevent Blindness. But because a child thinks that his sight is normal, he can't tell his parents that he needs help.

To order a free Home Eye Test for Preschoolers (in Spanish or English) write to the Society at 4200 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118, or give the organization a call at 387-0934.

Although the test does not take the place of a professional exam, it can alert parents to vision problems that, if left uncorrected, could lead to loss of sight.

## Reading Marathon at Buena Vista

Buena Vista Elementary School, at 1670 Noe Street, is looking for people to help sponsor a fundraising drive that encourages students to read. Fourth- and fifth-graders are participating in a program called Partners in Excellence that not only helps kids sharpen their reading skills, but also motivates them to raise money to achieve the school's goal of purchasing *World Book* encyclopedias for every classroom at Buena Vista.

Students must read at least seven books in seven weeks. Those children who reach this minimum goal will win certificates of achievement, and those who exceed the minimum will receive silver and gold medals.

If you'd like to further Noe Valley's strong support for educational efforts at Buena Vista, become a sponsor and pledge 25 cents, 50 cents, or \$1 or more

per book. *World Book* will match your pledge, dollar for dollar.

Interested parties should contact Linda Maya at 695-5875. Pledges will be collected in mid-March.

## Hummm, Baby, for Men Over 30

"We play hardball" is the motto of the Bay Area Men's Senior Baseball League. Founded in 1988, the league offers men 30 and over the chance to play amateur baseball (yes baseball, not softball) in contests between 20 teams wearing replica uniforms of major league baseball teams.

The San Francisco division, which features the teams of the National League West, begins its 18-game schedule on April 1, and openings for San Francisco ball players still exist. However, since tryouts will be held in early February, would-be Will Clarks should hustle to the phone and call Noe Valley resident Jon Sindell at 826-3545.

## Kids and Drugs

A recent study of San Francisco school children found that 66 percent consumed alcohol before they reached the fourth grade, and that 45 percent considered themselves "users."

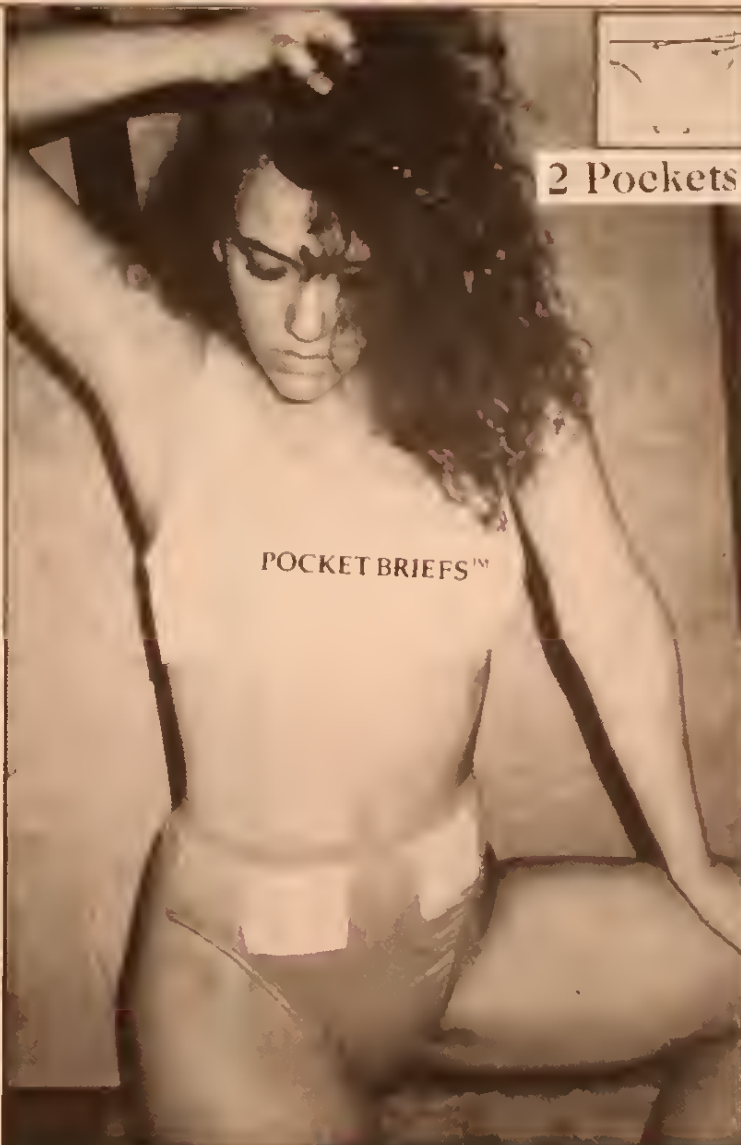
In response to such alarming statistics, the National Council on Alcoholism—Bay Area is conducting a Youth Aware program designed to educate elementary school students about alternatives to substance abuse.

Volunteers are needed to act as classroom educators for children ages 6 to 11. Fifty hours of training will include discussion of classroom techniques, public speaking, and such issues as co-dependency and the psychological aspects of drug addictions.

For more information contact Alina Ever at 861-4000 or write for a brochure and application to 1049 Market Street, Suite 507, San Francisco, CA 94103-1605.

Addie Lanier, Jane Underwood, and Jon Sindell contributed to the above short takes. □

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## A Family Tree Rooted Firmly in Neighborhood

By Larry Beresford

Jose Joaquin Moraga was a lieutenant on Captain Juan Bautista de Anza's Spanish colonizing expedition from Mexico. That expedition first reached the creek near present-day Mission Dolores in March of 1776. Three months later Moraga and Fray Francisco Palou—a close friend of Junipero Serra, the father of California's colonial missions—returned to Dolores Creek with a mule train, soldiers and colonists to establish Mission Dolores



Dorothy LaBute (right) is the fifth generation and her daughter Audrey Spring (left) the sixth in a line of descendants of Jose Joaquin Moraga, the 18th-century founding commander of the San Francisco Presidio.

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

and the Presidio of San Francisco. Moraga commanded the Presidio (then, as now, an army base), presided at the formal founding of the Mission, and was buried in its cemetery in 1785.

Moraga's great-great-great-granddaughter, Dorothy LaBute, now 81, lives in Noe Valley. Her three children—Audrey Spring, Clarence Lahey, and Barbara Anderson—all live relatively nearby (Spring and Lahey in Daly City, Anderson in Canoga Park). LaBute and three subsequent generations of Moraga descendants recently gathered to share family reminiscences with the *Voice*.

"No one ever talked about it much in the family when I was little," LaBute recalls. "We knew we had famous relatives, but that was it. We took it for granted." She adds that her grandmother Lulu Burnett was born in Martinez in an adobe house built in 1843 by Burnett's pioneer grandfather Vicente Martinez, son of Ygnacio Martinez (for whom that Contra Costa city is named).

Although descended from two adventurous California pioneers, LaBute has spent almost her entire life in Noe Valley or the nearby Mission. "People in this family have always stayed within a few blocks of the homes they grew up in," says LaBute's granddaughter-in-law, Jodi Hayes.

Hayes, originally from New York, married LaBute's grandson Jeffrey Hayes and now lives downstairs from LaBute in a 1909 vintage Alvarado Street house that has been in the family since 1947. She also operates Little Sprouts, a day-care program in the downstairs flat.

"Just thinking back, I don't understand what it is about us that made us stay put," adds Spring (Jodi's mother-in-law). "My second husband was from back East, and

had traveled all over. It amazed him that I could show him where in the neighborhood I had gone to school," she said, referring to Alvarado School and Mission High School.

"I was born in the front room of a flat on Albion Street," near 16th and Guerrero streets, on August 5, 1908, LaBute says. "The house is still there."

LaBute's mother Anna Smith separated from her husband, a Dane named Eddie Jorgenson, when LaBute was still a young girl. Mother and daughter moved to a series of Noe Valley and Mission district apartments, except for one year on Burnett's farm in Santa Clara, where Dorothy attended a convent school, and also where she contracted the deadly influenza virus that was epidemic right after World War I.

Even after a lengthy convalescence, she remained in poor health, and only stayed in school long enough to complete her studies at Mission Grammar School. (In her adult life, however, LaBute has only been hospitalized four times—three for the births of her children, and once, last December, when she paid a brief visit to St. Luke's.)

LaBute's mother, known to her daughter's family as Granny Smith, remarried a teamster named Lloyd Smith. In 1976 she was an honored guest at the 200th anniversary celebration of the Presidio's founding, and she died in 1979 at the age of 89.

"My mother was as strict as she could be with me," LaBute now says. "I had to play the piano. I couldn't step out of the house unless she or my aunt was with me." But LaBute was allowed to go dancing. "My mother or aunt would take me to El Patio, down on Market and Van Ness, or to other places. The band would play



This is Lulu Burnett, who was born in 1863 in the town of Martinez, named after her great-grandfather, pioneer Ygnacio Martinez.

polkas, waltzes, the old-time two-step. I never missed a dance—and I wasn't a wallflower."

When LaBute was 18, she had a big argument with her over-protective mother. "I walked out of the house, I rang your father, and that was it," she explains to her daughter Audrey. LaBute met her future husband, Clarence Lahey, at Mission Grammar School. They married and lived as newlyweds with his parents until their first child, Clarence Jr., was born. Lahey was also from old California stock. His father, Arthur, was a San Francisco police inspector, and his mother, Francis O'Connell, was the daughter and granddaughter of native Irish gold hunters who settled in Calaveras County.

LaBute eventually separated from Lahey and later married James Alfred "Al" LaBute in 1945, although the marriage lasted only a year. "Al's mother didn't like me a bit, and didn't want her son to get married. She didn't even come



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Dorothy LaBute's mother, Anna Smith, camped out in Duhoce Park after the 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed her family's Mission District house.

to the wedding. When we separated, he moved back with his mother," LaBute says.

Spring, like her mother, has also spent most of her life in Noe Valley and the Mission, until a year and a half ago when she "ran away to Daly City." She now works for the City and County of San Francisco's retirement system, and has two sons, Buddy and Jeffrey, as well as two grandchildren, Jason, 19, and Casey, who is 2½ and lives in the Alvarado Street house.

Although LaBute is too young to have experienced the great 1906 earthquake, she heard a lot about it growing up. Her grandmother, aunt, and mother (then just 16) lived in a house at Duhoce and Mission streets, which burned to the ground "except for two front gate posts. Everything was burning down. They thought it was the end of the world," LaBute relates.

"After the earthquake my great-grandmother wanted to see everything—she

never wanted to miss anything. Granny Smith told us, 'I was scared to death. I wasn't going to let Mother go alone.'" After sleeping out in tents in Duhoce Park for five or six days, Anna and her family walked down Market Street to the Ferry Building, carrying an umbrella because "ashes were just raining down," and caught a ferry to Pinole, where Granny Smith's Aunt Maggie ran a boarding house.

They put on as many layers of clothing as they could, because there was no way to pack belongings. "When they finally got across the bay," says Spring, "people would say, 'Oh, they must be from the old country.' They looked like such ragamuffins."

"All they were lacking was a bird cage," LaBute adds with a laugh.

LaBute and Spring both remember an earlier era in Noe Valley, when the cable car ran on Castro Street and a movie theater stood where Bell Market is today. "I liked the neighborhood, and I still do," LaBute says. "I've walked up Noe Hill many times." She finds the pace of life in the valley much more hectic today, however. "Now it's rush-rush-rush and shove-shove-shove. When I go out, I go early. I do my shopping in the morning and get home by noon." When she isn't out and about, LaBute sews, crochets, and makes decorative handicrafts, in addition to keeping up with her favorite afternoon soap operas.

Until World War II, "I could always leave the door unlocked" in the neighborhood, LaBute recalls. Spring adds that families and friends used to just drop in on each other more often, frequently staying for dinner. "Nowadays, it's more like a doctor's visit," LaBute laments. "Everybody's in a hurry."

Spring has also found it hard to watch the development of Diamond Heights and Twin Peaks, which were once bare slopes. "I used to hang my clothes out on the line on the porch, and it was so nice looking up at those beautiful hills." □



81-year-old Dorothy LaBute has always tried to stay close to her family. These days, with her great-grandson Casey Hayes, 2½, sharing the same house on Alvarado Street, she's finding it pretty easy. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS



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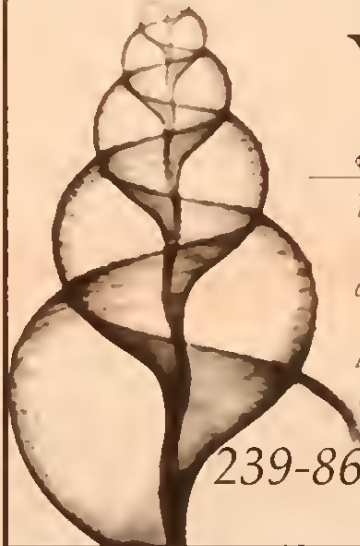
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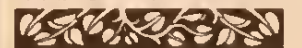


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## Go Niners, I Think

## Musings of a Halftime Jogger

By Mark Robinson

All was quiet on the streets of Noe Valley on Sunday, January 14—the day of the 49er-Rams playoff game.

I think I was one of only three people in the neighborhood not watching the game. Obviously, I was jogging a modified rectangle around the dish that is our neighborhood, trying—with only marginal success—to escape running up any hills.

It was just after three o'clock, and I knew vaguely that the game was set for this afternoon, but as I crossed 24th Street and headed up Castro, it still struck me as strange that downtown Noe Valley was deserted on a Sunday afternoon.

Puffing down Elizabeth Street I heard a roar go up from the house just then on my right. A flash of brilliant insight: the Niners had scored.

I continued on, feeling left out and wondering whether I should head straight

home to watch the rest of the game. A great bringing together of community this is, I thought, as I rounded the corner of Elizabeth and Church and glided toward Happy Donuts.

So what if I hadn't followed the team much this season? This went beyond sport. This was the team of the '80s, it was a cultural phenomenon.

God is dead, and high school kids can't date the Civil War within 50 years. Wasn't it my duty to watch at least one playoff game or risk losing all common ground?

I remembered last year's Super Bowl win. I sort of missed that too. I was driving through the Castro on my way home, listening to the game on the radio. When Taylor caught Montana's last-minute pass to win the game, a shout went up from all the bars and apartments. Horns started honking. I honked mine.

Any second now, Montana could explode and connect with Taylor again. I ran onto the wide sidewalk of Church

Street and peered through the dark glass of the Bailey, hoping to catch a glimpse of the team. Nothing. Maybe the hardeners were at home in front of their television sets, too.

Maybe I should forget about the game, go back to my apartment, grab a checkbook and head to Bell Market. *Nobody* would be in the grocery store—an incredibly rare occurrence, kind of like a solar eclipse.

I turned off Church and headed up 30th, past the flooded softball diamond at the playground. (Did anybody care about a game played with a ball and bat today? The Giants would soon be in Santa Clara anyway.) Inside the gym at the Upper Noe Recreation Center I heard what sounded like the squeak of rubber soles on the gym floor and young men's voices chanting "DEfense! (clap, clap) DEfense!"

Shouldn't they be at home watching the game? Maybe they had a big screen television set up inside, the young men gathered on the gym floor jumping and screaming for the team. I should at least watch part of this football game.

I rounded the corner onto Sanchez, reminding myself of football's calculated brutality and beer commercials. In the

street, just ahead, a touch football game was under way in the middle of the street. Ten men, all in jeans and sweatshirts, were scrambling around out in front of St. Paul's Market. A car came and they had to clear to the side.

It was halftime, and these guys had to vent their enthusiasm and work off some of the beer they had downed during the first two quarters. As I passed, another play went in motion with the sound of tennis shoes digging into asphalt. The one defensive lineman was counting off the rush—one-Mississippi, two-Mississippi, three-Mississippi—then he made a great failed try at blocking the pass as the quarterback sent the ball sailing down Sanchez Street.

No need for them to watch the halftime highlights. *They* had watched the game.

If I hurried, maybe I could get home in time for the second half. □



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Illustration by Beth Mickelson

## FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

### Some Thoughts Upon Turning Seventy

**I**t was last January 25 that I turned the final corner of my 60s, full of health and energy, and entered my 70s, asking myself what I had learned in all those years—what bit of wisdom I had retained that was worth passing on. So here it is: I believe there is a justice in this world, and I'm convinced, mostly because of the unpredictable course my life has taken, that the force dispensing this justice has a wry sense of humor.

Back in the 1930s, we schoolchildren were urged, early on, to perfect our skills and make choices that would prepare us for our eventual life's work. But girls had it harder than boys—jobs for females were limited to salesgirls, nurses, teachers or housewives. As I went down this list, I felt only discouragement. Sales meant handling sales slips, and math was not my strong point; nursing was out because the sight of blood made me faint; teaching I rejected when it became clear that I could not even train my cat. As for becoming a housewife, I knew that, with my lack of interest or talent in the kitchen, I would probably (and deservedly) achieve old-maidhood.

My sensible mother urged me to take classes that would prepare me to earn a living as a stenographer, so I followed her advice and gave it a try. After one year the teacher called me aside to make a deal. She informed me that if I would drop the course, she would give me a B—, but that if I persisted in pursuing this career for which I had no aptitude, she would be forced to give me a D. I took the B— with no regret.

Shortly after this, my mother died, and I attempted to take her place as housekeeper for my father and brothers. Since all I had ever really wanted to be was an artist, I was very fortunate when, during this difficult period, my father agreed to finance my further education in art. I attended the California School of Fine Arts from 1938 to 1942. And there I met the young and attractive Leo Holub, with whom I have shared almost 50 years, most of them in Noe Valley.

In the early '40s I came across the following ditty in the *Ladies Home Journal* (by a poetess whose name, unfortunately, I have forgotten), and I have retrieved these words from memory again and again over the years: "I'm careful of the things I say, / I keep them soft and sweet, / I never know from day to day / Which ones I'll have to eat."

The reason those lines have stuck with me is that I've had to eat quite a few of the statements I made emphatically in my youth. As a matter of fact, everything I vowed *not* to do, I eventually did. Going down the list now, I realize that I ended up working for years as a salesgirl in my father's paint store, a job that improved my math. Then, of course, my marriage to Leo took place despite my failings in the kitchen, and the challenge of raising my active little boys helped me to develop first-aid skills—as well as a tolerance for the sight of blood. In the teaching department, I have been volunteering as a docent (from the Latin word *docere*, to teach) for a decade now, giving schoolchildren tours in art and science at the De Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences.

Fifty-six years ago, when I escaped from stenographer's school, I thought I had left the uncooperative keyboard behind forever. But the wheels of justice turn slowly, and here I now sit, struggling over the typewriter, trying to force my wooden fingers to produce a few comprehensible pages for the *Voice*. (Don't get me wrong. I still love doing it, just as I love drawing the illustrations to go with it.)



Illustration by Florence Holub

Beth

F. Holub

But art—something our children became aware of at an early age—is the glue that has held the years together. Our boys were quite young, in fact, when comic books began to replace traditional story books, and as parents, we attempted to discourage them by feeding them into the fireplace (the funny books, not the children). But our offspring soon figured out what was happening to their pulp collection, and devised a subtle but effective plan: they presented us with an issue of *Mad* magazine, and asked us to read it before making a judgment.

In that issue the hero, Alfred E. Newman, became a famous and successful artist by painting on canvas with chicken fat! The story was so outrageously funny that from the sound of our chortling, the boys knew our fiery campaign against comics had come to an end. (To this day, however, we are reminded of the collector's value of those irretrievable issues.)

I have often been told that Beth, 9-year-old daughter of Linda and John Mickelson (my nephew), is much like me, and I can see the similarity. Unlike those children who complain that there is "nothing to do," Beth will go to the desk in her room and, with her paper, pencils, and brushes, spend hours creating a world of her own, as I often did.

Two years ago at a family gathering, Beth occupied herself by drawing on a paper napkin with a felt pen. When she had finished, she presented me with her work—a picture of me titled "You" (reproduced on this page.) It really looks like me, and in my hand she has placed a paintbrush, the classic "attribute" of an artist. I guess this is evidence—at least in the eyes of another artist—that I achieved my lifelong ambition after all. □

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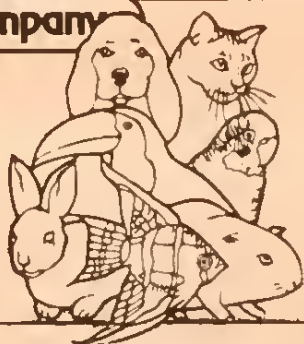
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# There's No Fool Like a Hoyle Fool

By Jeff Kaliss

"The fool is a very important person in society," states performer Geoff Hoyle. And Hoyle isn't fooling when he discusses the star of his "Feast of Fools" show, which played to packed houses at the Marines Memorial Theatre a couple of months back (and has since moved on to New York).

The show has been acclaimed by critics as a sort of tour de farce, displaying Hoyle's considerable skill as a physical comedian—a skill that has had San Franciscans laughing since his appearance as the Pickle Family Circus clown, Mr. Sniff, in the 1970s.

"We've lost touch with some of the fool's deeper and socially significant roles," declares the Sanchez Street resident, sipping coffee at What's for Dessert. "It's time we found these roles again."

Hoyle has helped move audiences toward that goal throughout the last half-dozen years with his solo productions of "Fool" and "The Fool Show," as well as "Feast of Fools." But his own inherent foolishness dates back to the 43-year-old performer's childhood in Yorkshire, England.

"I like mimicking people," he notes. "When a schoolteacher would leave the room, I'd imitate him, so that when he came back and started talking again, everybody would fall apart, and he wouldn't know why. It's a big tradition in England, you know—anti-authoritarianism."

Hoyle continued that tradition while studying theater at Birmingham University. "I came of age in the '60s, when people were questioning traditional roles in terms of the professions," he says. "Because of my background as a working-class kid, I wasn't that interested in going upscale to legitimate theater."

"And I was with a bunch of people who felt very similarly," he continues. "We were raised on Brecht and the idea of theater as a social tool, not theater which gives people a happy glow and sends them away wondering where they're going to have a drink and eat."

After graduation, while his friends put together a community arts group, Hoyle studied mime for a couple of years in France with Etienne Decroux, famed teacher of Jean-Louis Barrault and Marcel Marceau. On his return he joined his friends' commune, performing in "enabling situations in non-traditional settings."

In the early '70s, Hoyle made use of his mime skills as host of a series for teenagers, produced by England's independent Granada Television. But by 1973, having married an American, Mary Winegarden, he was itching to expand his horizons across the Atlantic.

"I just wanted to see what was going on in the belly of the beast," he says. He ended up on one of the beast's extremities, in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, where his wife had joined a commune. "Suddenly I was confronted with guns and racism," Hoyle recalls of the commune's neighbors. "It was very depressing."

Nevertheless, the immigrant discovered he could entertain the locals with a pantomime of a cowboy attempting awkwardly to roll a cigarette with one hand. "I was cutting back on all the bullshit, which fits with what the fool does," Hoyle observes.

Hoyle and Winegarden couldn't shake their wanderlust, however, and hitchhiked to Los Angeles, where they made a brief stopover, then on to San Francisco. "It was February of 1974 and it was raining," Hoyle remembers of his arrival here. "I said to myself, 'I like this place, it reminds me of Liverpool.'"

Hoyle set up house in the Haight and was soon lucky enough to encounter a fire-eating friend from England. The two expatriates formed the New Depression Follies, which did nine shows each day on the sidewalks of North Beach, after which "we'd go over to Vesuvio's, put all the coins on the table, order four beers, and put the money into rolls." They later took the show across country in a Dodge Polara van. "It wasn't easy, but it was carefree," smiles Hoyle.

Back in mid-'70s San Francisco, the federal government was funding artists and performers under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Hoyle pooled his grant money with that of two other CETA recipients, Bill Irwin and Larry Pisoni, to form the Pickle Family Circus, a high-art, no-animal alternative to the traditional big top.

"Here I was again being paid to do work in a social and community setting," Hoyle reflects. In 1976 he and Winegarden moved to Sanchez Street, where their first child, Jonah, was born a year later.

Hoyle toured with the Pickles from 1974 to 1981. His best-known contribution to the show was Mr. Sniff, a clown with an attitude as big as his oversized proboscis.



The Court Jester finds himself confronted by his own "bauble" in the medieval segment from performer Geoff Hoyle's "Feast of Fools." PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

"We had a lot of fights, a lot of meetings, but also a lot of good times," says Hoyle of the Pickle Family. "We took care of each other and we took care of each other's children." Hoyle's son Daniel was born in 1980, a year after the family relocated to Potrero Hill.

The 1981 production of "Three High" at the Marines Memorial Theatre, starring Hoyle, Irwin, and Pisoni, was a harbinger of the departure from the circus of all three of the founding clowns in favor of solo careers during the '80s. Aside from his first "Fool" show, Hoyle secured a handful of film roles (including Scoop in Robert Altman's *Popeye*) and performed in dramatic roles at the Eureka and Berkeley Repertory theatres.

The birth of daughter Kailey in 1984

helped drive home the realization that Hoyle could better support his family as a solo act. In that format he scored critical and financial success with "Theatre of Panic" (1985, music by Keith Terry), "Boomer" and "Standup/Falldown Comedy" (1986), and "The Fool Show" (1988).

The last of these productions brought in \$40,000 at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

"They have no production costs, no rehearsal time, and only one guy to pay," Hoyle points out, "instead of 12 people and a big set where they have to pay the director and the writer." After this successful performance, Hoyle found him-

Continued on Page 24

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## Hoyle's Moveable Feast

Continued from Page 23

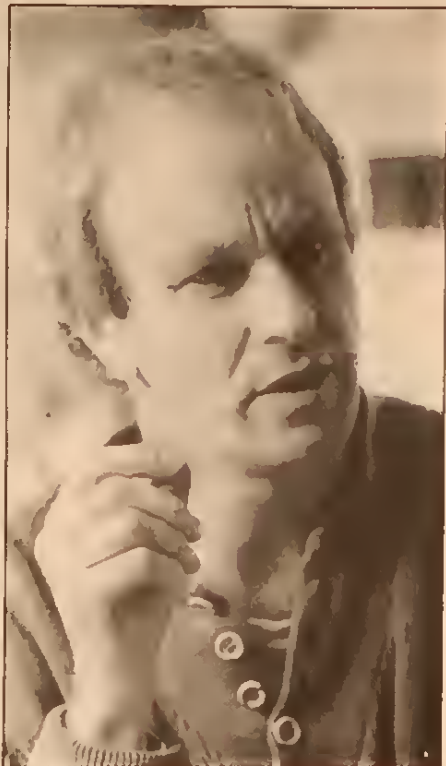
sell able to purchase a bigger home back on Sanchez Street in 1987.

The current "Feast of Fools" reflects the depth of Hoyle's ongoing exploration of comedy's psychic function down through history. "A lot of it is based on looking at cave paintings, reading *The Golden Bough*, and researching social anthropological works, myths and legends," he says.

Hanging out in the Library of Congress and New York's Museum of the Performing Arts, Hoyle has thus become acquainted with his antic ancestors—the pagan ritual fool of northern Europe, the court jester of the Middle Ages, the "Pope of Fools" from Medieval church festivals, the hawdy characters of 15th-century Italian *commedia dell'arte*, and turn-of-the-century farcical waiters.

"I realized that all these guys had some link," comments Hoyle, who provides visions of each in his latest one-man extravaganza. Joining the historical fools are Hoyle's personal creations—a pre-tentious British fundraiser, a mind-boggling three-legged man, and, of course, Mr. Sniff.

Hoyle's devotion to his subject is matched by his skill and stamina in the use of face and body to convey subtleties



Here's a look at Geoff Hoyle, in his role as a Voice interviewee. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

of character, while milking an endless flow of laughs. In a couple of skits he manages to play more than one character, using a small screen for rapid change of roles. One world-class long-distance runner in the Marines Memorial audience exclaimed that, "This guy runs a marathon a night!"

One of Hoyle's favorite ways of preserving his wiry, energetic physique is to walk from his Upper Noe Valley home-stand to 24th Street, occasionally permitting himself a pastry stop at What's for Dessert or Star Bakery. He uses a hicycle for longer trips.

"I like the fact that Noe Valley is a mixed neighborhood, that there are still a lot of old Irish Catholics," says Hoyle, who was raised in that faith. Despite his growing fame and his desire to experiment with film, he has no intention of relocating to Hollywood.

"It's more likely I would move to New York or back to England," he maintains. "I'm missing that, and I want my kids to have a little bit of English culture, or what passes for culture in Thatcher's individualistic, money-grabbing, self-aggrandizing society."

By the time the Hoyle kids read this article, their dad will be on his way the New York production of "Feast of Fools," his first solo there. He follows the path of former fellow Pickle Bill Irwin, who chomped into the Big Apple with his mixed-media performances and his role in "Waiting for Godot," alongside F. Murray Abraham, Steve Martin, and Robin Williams.

"I think the audiences will like it, if I can get them in there," Hoyle says. "It's just getting them past what may pass for critical reviews."

Hoyle looks forward to working on new material later this year, with his family and neighbors as audience, possibly

at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez.

"I love playing there, because it feels like it's my own back yard," he says. "These are folks I know, who'll give me the right to fail, and that's the most important thing an audience can give a performer. Because if you can't fail, you can't learn, and if you can't learn, you can't get better."

Hoyle is indeed a wise Fool. □

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# The Daily Planet

By Mazook

**HAPPY NEW AGE:** Recent international events have swept Noe Valley and all the neighborhoods of the world onto the doorstep of the 21st century, according to a report released by the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) on the first day of the last decade of the millennium.

There have been monumental breakthroughs to freedom and independence in the neighborhoods of Czechoslovakia and East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary.

And if Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and all the other wannabefrees have their way, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may have to change its name to plain old Russia—what we've been mistakenly calling it all along.

NVBI agents interviewed many local residents with Eastern and Central European connections and several visitors to our neighborhood who had interesting news of that part of the world.

Johanna Dahn, who lives on Homestead, has two sisters in Bucharest, Romania, whom she finally reached on the telephone after days of trying. Johanna was glowing. "The first thing they said to me was, 'We finally have light, heat, and food!'"

Johanna, who was born in the Romanian capital more than six decades ago, visited Bucharest two years ago. "It was the most terrifying experience I've ever had," she recalls. "I was followed, searched, questioned, the lights had to be out at midnight, my sisters had to share their food with me, and everyone was afraid to talk about it because of the secret police. . . . Now I will be very happy if there is freedom."

Jorge Misak, who lives in the Upper Market area but enjoys the ambience of Speckmann's Restaurant on Church Street, has been talking to his niece and sister in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

"They are so very excited now," he smiles. "The government has dropped the chain on the borders and they are free to



go any place they want. Everyone was crying because for 40 years you had to shut up and you knew the government was lying to you."

However, some dark clouds remain on the horizon, Jorge says. "The people there are very, very worried about the horrible pollution in the air and all the

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news BY MAZOOK

ivers, but hopefully the work morale will now improve if people think they've got a future."

Jeorg Kunzemann, who is here in Noe Valley as part of his study to be a German lawyer, was in Berlin when the gates in a wall dividing neighborhoods for nearly three decades were opened and the neighbors converged to chip it away.

"It was the most incredible thing I have ever seen," exclaimed Jeorg. "The East Berliners flooded into the West, and by the weekend the Kurfürstendamm [the main street] was totally overcrowded. As strange as it may seem, the question they [the East Germans] most frequently asked was where to find a Woolworth's, because they were looking for cheap goods."

Another German law student visiting Noe Valley, Annette Stock, who lives in West Berlin but left for San Francisco five days before the wall fell, says she has been corresponding with her friends. "They say that the people coming from East Berlin are looking at the people in West Berlin like they are in a zoo. Also amazing to hear was that the roads from West Berlin to West Germany [which go through the German Democratic Republic] had Trabants [the East German VW] lined up bumper to bumper for 50 kilometers, which is very strange because they all look alike and spit out horrible smoke, which is causing the GDR high pollution problems."

**BACK IN THE U.S.S.R.:** While German reunification seems problematic but possible, the Soviet Union may need an Abraham Lincolnovich to keep together an ever-increasing number of secessionist states.

Says Boris Lehr (owner of Lehr's German Specialties on Church Street), who came here from his native Estonia, "I think we [the Estonians] will break away from the Russians this time. We've been occupied by the Swedes, the Germans, the Hungarians, and since 1940 the Russians, and we have always struggled to be free, and it will be."

Noe Valley Voice distribution manager Misha Yagudin is from Frunze, the capital of Kirgizia, another Soviet republic. "I have just talked with my aunt who just left Kirgizia," says Misha. "The mood is very nationalistic right now and very anti-Russian, and it seems as if everyone is waiting for Lithuania to take the first step. Misha 'walked' from the U.S.S.R. back in 1973.

Diamond Street resident Inars Bins, originally from Latvia (he left in '44), has friends visiting from Riga, the capital. "The Latvians are strongly behind the leaders asking for independence, and there is a strong resentment against the Russians, but elections are a dilemma because the Russians moved into our country and now have become the majority," he said.

The NVBI would be interested in talking to anyone in greater Noe Valley who might have friends or relations in the Soviet Union or in Eastern or Central Europe with stories to tell. Write or call the NVBI c/o of the Voice.

☎☎☎

**MEANWHILE,** back in the Republic of Noe Valley, local activists are mounting a campaign to free 24th Street of litter. (See story, page 1.)

It's about time Fred "Mr. Clean" Methner got some help. For the past millennium or so, the fearless leader of the East & West of Castro Club has been cleaning up Downtown Noe Valley almost single-handedly. First, he tackles the newspaper stands at Noe and 24th, then he tidies up the Coast Savings corner, then he collects spent cups at Spinelli Coffee, and then he goes out and finds a graffiti'd wall to paint.

The East & West newsletter (which Fred writes and distributes himself) recently published a letter by an irate member who complained that "the dust, dirt, and unscrubbed sidewalks [on 24th Street] are not only an eyesore, but a health hazard." It went on to say, "We should have nice clean streets to shop on, as they do in Europe where merchants scrub the sidewalks."

☎☎☎

**MORE TRASHY DEVELOPMENTS.** The Bernal Recycling Center, a non-profit corp. has had to cease its curbside pickups in the neighborhood because according to volunteer manager Blanche Cabanillas, "We had no money and the old truck couldn't make it." Blanche wants everyone to bring their recyclables to Clipper and Castro on February 25, where the BRC will pick up the load.

☎☎☎

**SHORT SHIRTS:** Noe Valleeon Bill Russell-Shapiro sadly reports that he and his company, Firehouse BBQ, have abandoned the effort to open a restaurant in the old Little Italy Too spot on 24th above Castro. A landlord-tenant dispute

evidently caused Bill to give up on Noe Valley. He is planning on a Sacramento Street site instead.

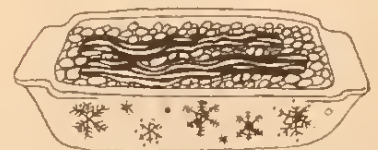
It looks like Cotton and Company will be moving up 24th Street from its small quarters across from Bell Market to the space where Castro Pharmacy used to be.

Renowned artist Mark Adams, who shares a Noe Heights firehouse with his equally renowned artist wife Beth Van Hoesen, is now having a 30-year retrospective showing of 81 of his multi-media creations, including drawings, watercolors, prints, paintings, tapestries, and stained glass. You'll have to go to the Palo Alto Cultural Center (1313 Newell Road) to see it, but be sure and carpool for the trek down to the farm. And as they say in show biz, "Hurry, hurry!" The expo closes March 4, when all the pieces now on loan to the center must be returned to their owners. Adams' works are also the subject of a book published by Chronicle Books, appropriately titled *Mark Adams*.

If you want a glimpse of Adams' tapestry work, Phoebe McAfee and Rudi Richardson are currently weaving up some designs at Bethany Church (Sanchez and Clipper).

In other art news, the Meat Market Coffeehouse, on 24th near Castro, will soon make its walls available to neighborhood artists to display their works. Call Eileen Blodgett at 584-2283 for details.

☎☎☎



**HERB'S FINE FOODS HISTORY** BUFS will be happy to know that former Noe Valleeon (Vicksburg Street) Linda Pinsker responded to my quest in the December issue for Herb's last name: "Herbert Gaines is alive and well and living in South San Francisco with his wife Margaret," she writes.

Herb, who will be celebrating his 78th birthday in March, sends his best to all the friends he made while he owned and operated the 24th Street eatery. (He purchased the business in 1945 and sold it to the current owner, Sam Kawa, in 1974.)

Herb's was started as a soda fountain and sandwich shop in 1943 by a chap named Cyril Saunders, who called it "X the Noe" because it was across the street from the Noe Theater. Herb Gaines changed the name in 1953 when theater customers began staying home to watch TV, and he converted the place from a floundering soda fountain to a very popular greasy spoon.

That's all, you all. Ciao for now. □

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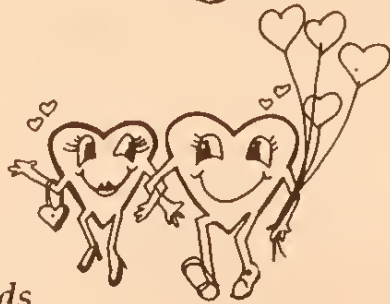
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# MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

## Miranda Rogow Sachs

Anne Sachs and Zack Rogow met (at a party in New York) in 1979, "got together" in 1983 ("Zack laughed at my jokes," says Anne), got married in 1986, and had a baby in 1989. They have lived on 27th Street for the past two years (Anne grew up in San Francisco), and all their nearby relatives are ecstatic about the clan's newest addition, Miranda Rogow Sachs.

Miranda was a calm baby, says her mother, all through the pregnancy, and then her birth conveniently coincided with Anne's official due date—Miranda arrived on July 23 at 9:07 p.m.

But once the couple's 6-pound, 8-ounce baby entered the world, a frighteningly "un-calm" period ensued, after doctors discovered Miranda was suffering from pneumonia. They rushed her to intensive care, and it wasn't until a week later that Anne and Zack were able to hold their newborn daughter for the first time.

"It was one of the worst times we've ever been through," recalls Zack, "but Miranda has more than made up for it. She's a wonderful, wonderful baby."

By the time she was 2 months old, in fact, Miranda was sleeping through the night (luxurious 12-hour stretches) and displaying a sunny disposition during the day. "She always wakes up with a smile," says her admiring father.

Zack, 37, who works for a translation



Daughter Miranda is usually the one who gives parents Anne Sachs and Zack Rogow a lift  
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

company and in his spare time writes fiction, children's books, and poetry (he had a poem in the *Voice* recently), is the first to admit he was apprehensive about parenthood. "Frankly," he says, "I was not looking forward to the unnecessary complications." But now he's "amazed at how wonderful the whole experience has been."

Thirty-two-year-old Anne notes that life was "already complicated" prior to Miranda's birth, because of all the time

and energy she spent as a teacher and social worker. "Having Miranda simplified my life," she observes. These days Anne works primarily as a mother, and during nap times manages to squeeze in a few hours doing editorial work and research for writers.

"Miranda is beautiful," Anne says unabashedly. "She has Zack's eyes, my face shape, and both of our brown hair and eyes." Currently, she adds, Miranda is mastering the fine art of eating bananas

and cereal. She is also "practicing her consonants," notes Zack, and has thus popped out with several "random Dada's" as well as one "Mommy!"

Both Mommy and Dada are surprised at "the intensity" of their parental feelings. "I didn't realize the bond would be so strong," says Anne. "When I'm gone from her even for a short time, I really miss her!"

"When we were taking our Lamaze class," says Zack, "I didn't understand why people were so excited. Now I do. It's such a big part of life, such an opportunity to really give unstintingly to another person—to open up and love unconditionally."

"And you receive unconditional love, in return," adds Anne. "Miranda's crazy about us, too!" □

**MORE MOUTHS TO FEED** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.

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Head Librarian Roberta Greifer recommends the following good-reads available for check-out at the Noe Valley Library this month. The branch, located at 451 Jersey

Street near Castro, is open on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Phone: 285-2788.

### Adult Fiction

*Death of a Salesperson* is mystery writer Robert Barnard's first collection of short stories—all of which are as suspenseful as his novels.

*The Good Spy* by John Grilloth is an espionage thriller about a Russian emigrant caught between clashing American and Russian agents.

*Looking for Home* is Jean Ferris' heartwarming novel for young adults about a high school senior who becomes pregnant and who decides to keep and raise her child.

In *Mystery*, by Peter Straub, a man who was nearly killed in his childhood investigates two mysterious deaths.

Set against a background of war and fascism, *Voices in the Evening* by Natalia Ginzburg portrays a young Italian woman and her doomed love affair with the youngest son of a factory.



### Adult Non-Fiction

*And the Walls Came Tumbling Down* is Rev. Ralph Abernathy's autobiographical account of the civil rights movement and his relationship with Martin Luther King.

Beautifully illustrated, *The Book of Potpourri* by Penny Black gives the reader detailed instructions on how to make potpourri, as well as how to use it in sachets, pillows, and pomanders.

Containing numerous drawings and charts, *Discovering AutoCAD* by Mark Dix and Paul Riley is a hands-on training manual for computer-aided drafting.

In *The Flying Boy*, therapist John Lee traces his journey from co-dependent and abusive relationships into grieving, healing, and "true" masculinity.

Through its depiction of 10 therapeutic encounters, *Love's Executioner* by psychiatrist Irwin Yalom dramatizes the art of psychotherapy and the truth in the lives it unravels.

*Writing Business Letters with a Personal Touch* by Deborah Sharp contains over 340 sample letters, along with instructions and a checklist of do's and don'ts.



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# Farewell to Librarian Debby Jeffery

By Geraldine Lanier

"Where's Debby?" parents and children have been asking in the Children's Room of the Noe Valley Library. And they've been disappointed to learn that their dynamic children's librarian has left for good.

Debby Jeffery's abrupt departure from the Jersey Street branch last month was due to her promotion to head librarian at the Anza Library, 550 37th Avenue. When her notice arrived in mid-December, she was informed that she had to transfer in a week because Anza's librarian had retired and the branch needed Jeffery badly.

"I didn't have much time to say goodbye to everyone," she said. Jeffery's last day at the Noe Valley Library was December 30.

Noe Valley head librarian Roberta Greifer would like to reassure the neighborhood's readers that a new children's librarian will be assigned to the branch—hopefully by the middle of February—but she realizes that "it'll be hard for someone to fill Debby's shoes."

"She has been a wonderful librarian and great with the children. The community and staff will miss her, but we're happy that she has received this well-deserved promotion."

After four years as a reference and children's librarian at the Main Library downtown, Jeffery arrived at the Noe



Debby Jeffery (center, with guitar), who presided over the infant-toddler "lapsit" program at the Noe Valley Library for the past five years, recently won a promotion to head librarian at the Anza branch. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON

Valley branch, 451 Jersey Street, on Halloween day, 1984. "On the bus, people gave me uncertain looks when I explained that I was going to my new job," Jeffery recalls. She was dressed in a cat costume, complete with swinging tail.

Any uncertainty turned into admiration once she became involved with Noe Valley's youngsters. In January 1985, she introduced the infant/toddler "lapsit" program, a story and fingerplay time for children and their parents that she had helped develop at the Main branch.

"Noe Valley was a wonderful community to start with," Jeffery said. "[But in the mid-'80s] it was the beginning of lots

of people with babies!"

At that time, she also began conducting lapsit training workshops for the San Francisco Public Library and other Bay Area library systems. She and Ellen Mahoney, children's librarian at the Merced branch, published an article, "Sitting Pretty: Programming for Infants & Toddlers," for the *School Library Journal's* April 1989 issue. Photographs of some Noe Valley children, who are now in kindergarten, are included.

Her other contribution to the community was adding a significant collection of Spanish books to serve the increasing Latino population in Noe Valley. The

needs of students at Buena Vista Elementary, a Spanish-immersion school, inspired Jeffery to obtain extra funding and to look around for the books that would be of particular interest to city kids. And since the "newcomer" class for new immigrants at James Lick Middle School doesn't have an adequate collection in their library, she has also drawn them to the Noe Valley Library.

The Anza Library will be a challenge, she says, because she will have more responsibilities and she will be serving a large Asian community. One of her first tasks will be to launch a lapsit program there.

But before devoting herself to her new duties, Jeffery would like to send this message to Noe Valley residents: "Thank you for all your support. I couldn't have done all of this without people coming to the library and showing their enthusiasm. I feel lucky to have been involved in such a great community. I hope that everyone continues to support their library. And anybody is welcome to visit me at the Anza branch."

She also reminds the children, "Don't forget to behave yourselves. Read a fun good book, and remember, not just for school!" □

*Editor's note: Just as we wound up this issue of the Voice, we learned that a new children's librarian had been selected for the Noe Valley branch and was set to start work February 6. Parents should note, however, that the Wednesday lapsit program will not resume until February 14, at 7 p.m.*



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The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 20th of the month preceding the month of issue. (It would also be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue, and include the old copy with your renewal.)

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue will appear March 1, 1990. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by Feb. 20. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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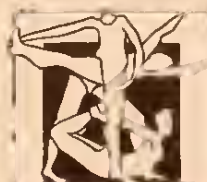
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# CALENDAR

**FEB. 1:** Opal Palmer Adisa and Odeborah Major read from their new book of POETRY, *Traveling Women*. 7:30 pm Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

**FEB. 1:** Integral Yoga Institute offers a practical MEDITATION WORKSHOP, covering what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it enjoyable. 7:30-9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117



Working with sign language and ethnic dialects, Oiane Ferlatte presents an evening of storytelling at Old Wives Tales on Feb. 22.

**FEB. 1-25:** GALLERY SANCHEZ displays the work of artists Judith Miller, Rusty Cantor, and Jonnie Vance in a show called "The Work of the Heart." Gallery hours: Mon-Sat, noon-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317 or 821-4117

**FEB. 2:** Galeria de la Raza hosts RECEPTIONS for contributors to "Reimagining America: The Arts of Social Change" (5-7 pm), and for members of the Border Arts Workshop/Taller de Arte Fronterizo (7-9 pm). The show "Borderwatch: 5 Years Later" BAW/TAF and Collaborators" continues through Feb. 24. Gallery hours: 12-6 pm. 826-8009



## FEBRUARY 1990

**FEB. 2-4 & 9-11:** Provide emotional support for people with AIDS by becoming a SHANTI VOLUNTEER. Training begins Fri., 6 pm, and continues Sat. and Sun. mornings at 9 am for two consecutive weekends. Shanti Project, 525 Howard St. Call Mike or Ali at 777-2273



**FEB. 2-8:** The Castro Theatre screens the exclusive premiere revival of Andrei Tarkovsky's *SOLARIS* in the original uncut version. 429 Castro St. Call 621-6120 for times.

**FEB. 2-11:** The New Conservatory Children's Theatre Company premieres "Get Real," an AIDS EDUCATION SHOW for pre-teens. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. The Zephyr Theatre Complex, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-4914

**FEB. 2-18:** The Z Collective presents the PLAY adaptation of Sinclair Lewis' novel *It Can't Happen Here*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Mission Neighborhood Center, 362 Capp St. 863-4793

**FEB. 2 & 16:** The Mission WRITING GROUP meets at various cafes in the Mission District on the first and third Friday of each month. 7-9 pm. Poets and writers are invited to call 991-1728.

**FEB. 3:** Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and keyboardist Paul Machlis play traditional SCOTTISH MUSIC and selections from their album *The Road North*. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**FEB. 3 & 10:** AUDITIONS for the May performances of the jazz, rock and rap opera *Bird City*, a production of Voices: SF, Bay Area Youth Opera, will be held for children ages 7 to 16, as well as for adults. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Call for appointment, 431-2027

**FEB. 3-18:** TROUBLE & STRIFE, an all-women theatre ensemble from London, performs *Now and at the Hour of Our Death* and *Next to You I Lie*. Wed-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 821-1155 or 626-8986



**FEB. 4:** MEET RECENT REFUGEES and immigrants from Russia, China, and Vietnam for an afternoon of ethnic pastries, tea, music, and conversation. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

Illustration by Karol Barske

**FEB. 4:** The School of the Arts FLUTE, BRASS, AND STRING ENSEMBLES will perform at the San Francisco Senior Center. 2 pm. 890 Beach St. 567-0663

**FEB. 7:** WOMAN, INC., a battered women's agency, begins VOLUNTEER TRAINING. 2940 16th St. For more information call Jeanie at 864-4777

**FEB. 8:** Stephanie Henderson introduces local BLACK POETS, poetry readers, and other writers. 7:30 pm. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

**FEB. 8:** The Friends of Noe Valley hold their STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING at 7:30 pm in the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. Call Bill Kuhns at 826-2304 for an agenda.

**FEB. 8:** The Integral Yoga Institute's PRANAYAMA WORKSHOP focuses on control of vital energies through regular breathing practices. 7:30-9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117

**FEB. 8-10:** Guitarist Stephen Oick and dancer/choreographer Kathy Thomas present "Canciones Nuevas y Antigas" (New and Ancient Songs), an evening of DANCE AND MUSIC combining theatrical, flamenco and folkloric forms. Thurs-Sat. 8 pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 648-3323

**FEB. 9-15:** Eight Chilean women from the Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared are profiled in Odeborah Shaffer's FILM *Dance of Hope*. York Theatre, 2789 24th St. Call 282-0316 for times.

**FEB. 10:** Gonzalo Vargas and his group INKUYO perform an evening of Chilean music for the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**FEB. 11:** Cesar's Latin All-Stars will perform at the Buena Vista School PTA's annual FUNRAISING DANCE. 8 pm. Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission St. 821-1852

**FEB. 10:** The San Francisco Cacophony Society sponsors its three-hour Chinese New Year's TREASURE HUNT. Festivities commence at 5 pm on the roof of the Filth and Mission Garage. Call 665-0351 for details.

**FEB. 11:** Tax practitioner Jan Zobel teaches a SEMINAR on basic tax and record-keeping information for self-employed people. Call 821-1015 for details.

**FEB. 11:** Oiane Ferlatte and Moshé bring AFRICAN-AMERICAN STORIES and music to the Kidshows Performing Arts Series. 2:30 & 3:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 527-4977



**FEB. 12:** The Diamond Senior Center's ST. VALENTINE'S DANCE will feature the music of Walter Traverso. 1-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

**FEB. 12-17:** Rosters and entry fees for the city's Spring Adult SOFTBALL LEAGUES can be submitted to the S.F. Recreation and Park Department at its Athletic Division offices, behind Kezar Pavilion, Stanyan and Waller streets. 753-7023

**FEB. 15:** Black lesbian writer and actor BELINDA SULLIVAN tells children's stories with a message. 7:30 pm. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

**FEB. 15:** The GREENTALKS lecture series continues with Roger Walsh, M.O., discussing "Psychology for a Sustainable Society." 7:30-9:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 255-2940



Alasdair Fraser (right) matches his Scottish fiddling with Paul Machlis' New Age keyboarding at the Noe Valley Music Series Feb. 3.

**FEB. 16-18:** The women's vocal chorus KITKA presents folk music from Bulgaria and Eastern Europe. Feb. 16 & 17, 8:15 pm; Feb. 18, 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**FEB. 17:** Bernard Gilbert and Stephen Riave present an evening of satirical, topical, and personal songs to BENEFIT the Freedom Song Network. 8 pm. Cafe Fanari, 2773 24th St. 648-3457

**FEB. 20:** "Mainstream Mothers in the 90's," a PANEL DISCUSSION on juggling jobs and families, is the highlight of NOW's general meeting. 7 pm. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 981-5282

**FEB. 22:** Noe Valley resident Oon Kern teaches "Romance Dining for Two," part of a monthly series of MICROWAVE COOKING CLASSES. 6:30-8:30 pm. Emporium-Capwell, 400 Newpark Mall, Newark, Calif. Pre-registration required. 791-3640

**FEB. 22:** Actress and storyteller OIANE FERLATTE performs her "Have I Got a Story to Tell!" 7:30 pm. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

**FEB. 23-MARCH 8:** YAABA Idriisa Quedraogo's award-winning film portrait of West African village life, screens at the York Theatre, 2789 24th St. 282-0316.

**FEB. 24:** Psychic Horizons, Church of Natural Grace, presents a PSYCHIC READING FAIR from 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906

**FEB. 25:** Bring your RECYCLES to the Bernal Recycling Center's Noe Valley pickup site, at Castro and Clipper streets, 11 am-4 pm. Note: clean glass (sorted by color), aluminum, plastic (CA redemption only), cardboard, and bundled newspapers will be gratefully accepted. 282-0364



**FEB. 26:** Therapist, musician and teacher of GUIDED IMAGERY Linda Keiser hosts the seminar "Visions of Health: Listening to Music With Your Mind's Eye." 7-10 pm. Oberon Sounds, 584B Castro St. (between 18th and 19th). 864-3396

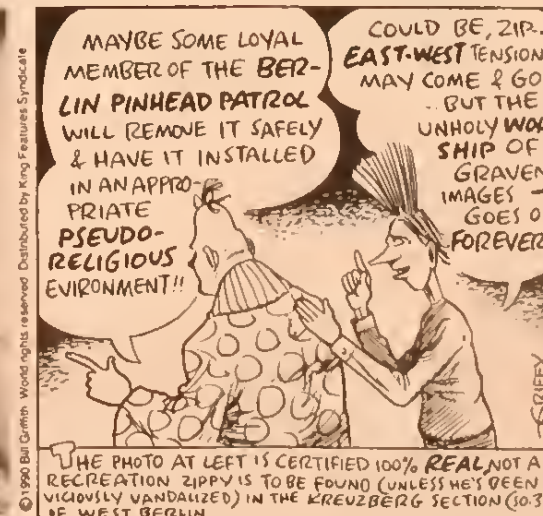
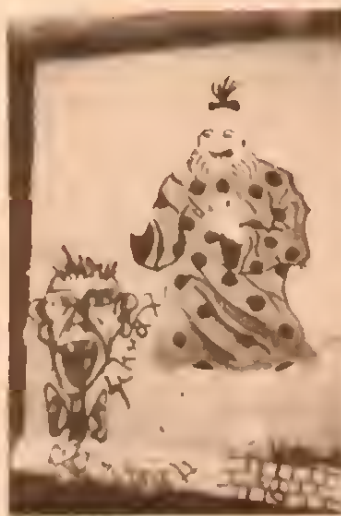
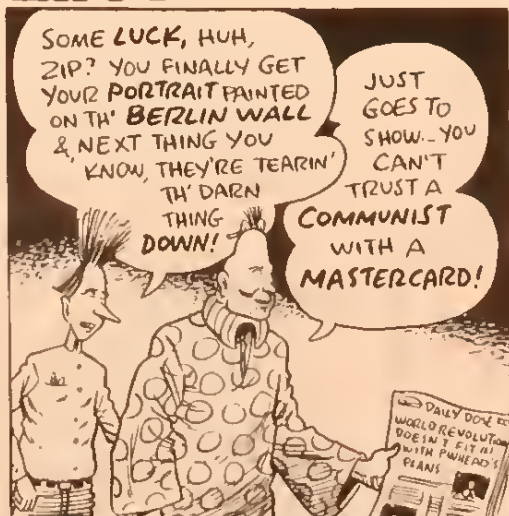
**FEB. 26:** The San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project conducts a 12-week comprehensive TREATMENT PROGRAM. For further information, contact Howard at the Qian Yin Healing Arts Center, 1748 Market St. 861-4964

**FEB. 28:** Qian Yin Healing Arts Center offers a FERTILITY program for men and women using Chinese herbs and acupuncture. 1748 Market St. Contact David or Joan, 861-4963

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"ICH USED TO BE EIN BERLINER"

BILL GRIFFITH



### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear March 1, 1990. The deadline for March calendar items is Feb. 15.